

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

- ☐ 385 North Arrowhead Avenue - San Bernardino, CA 92415-0160 - (909) 884-4056
- ☐ 1647 East Holt Boulevard - Ontario, CA 91761 - (909) 458-9673
- ☐ 13911 Park Avenue - Victorville, CA 92392 - (760) 243-3773
- ☐ San Bernardino County Vector Control Program
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Apple Valley	Needles
Barstow	Ontario
Big Bear Lake	Rancho Cucamonga
Chino	Redlands
Chino Hills	Rialto
Colton	San Bernardino
Fontana	Twentynine Palms
Grand Terrace	Upland
Hesperia	Victorville
Highland	Yucaipa
Loma Linda	Yucca Valley

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(909) 387-4688

ADULT MOSQUITO SUPPRESSION for CONTROL OF WEST NILE VIRUS

In response to 7 confirmed human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) and the presence of adult mosquitoes in the central Fontana area, San Bernardino County Vector Control Program (SBCVCP) will begin truck-mounted adult mosquito suppression using ultra-low volume fogging on Friday, June 25, 2004, weather permitting.

In accordance with the California Mosquito-Borne Virus Surveillance and Response Plan, a risk-assessment of the area indicated that adulticiding would be the most effective treatment method for immediate reduction of the adult mosquito population. "This decision was made in order to provide the greatest protection available from WNV for County residents," said Eric Frykman, M.D., interim County Health Officer. "Since we know the virus is here and has caused illness in humans, fogging decreases the mosquito population, thus minimizing possible WNV infections."

The area to be treated is bounded by Arrow Boulevard on the north, San Bernardino Avenue to the south, Alder Avenue to the east and Mango Avenue to the west. (see attached map)

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Residents in this area can expect to see SBCVCP truck fogging along streets between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. However, residents should avoid direct exposure by staying indoors during the application. Signs will be posted prior to the application on telephone poles or other posts in the affected area describing the fogging agent and any precautions. Ponds containing fish should be covered prior to the application as the agent is harmful to fish. Cars and other outdoor items will not be affected.

The WNV season has begun earlier than expected this year and may continue into the months of October and November in San Bernardino County and surrounding areas. Less than one percent of people bitten by a mosquito carrying WNV will become ill. Only 20% of infections have mild symptoms such as fever, rash, headache and body aches. People most at risk for developing symptoms of the disease are those over the age of 50 and those with already compromised immune systems. However, all residents should continue to take the following measures to protect themselves from mosquito bites.

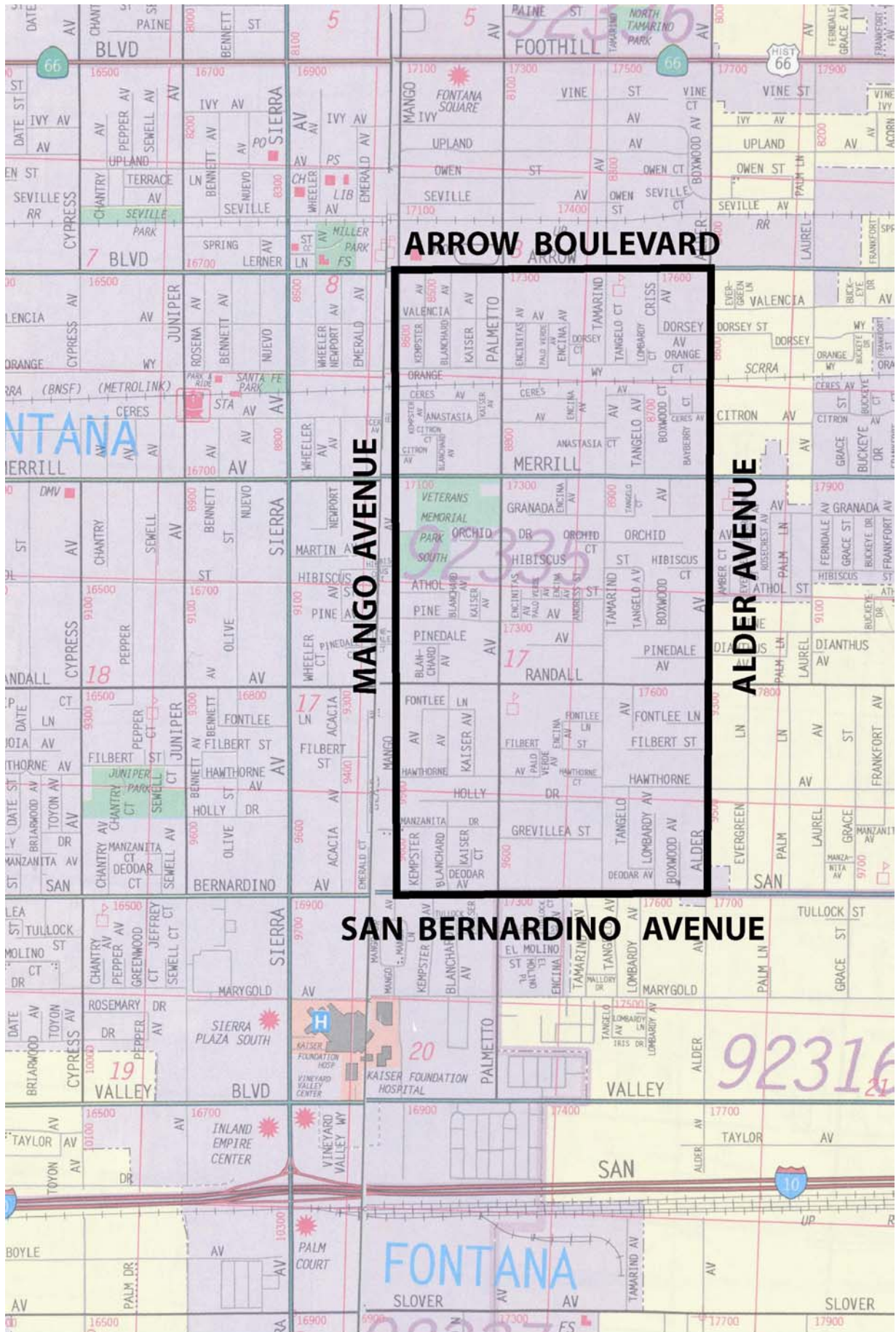
- Avoid spending time outside at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are active. They are especially active for 2 hours after sunset.
- When outdoors, wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and other protective clothing.
- Apply insect repellent containing DEET according to label instructions.
- Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding such as bird baths, green swimming pools, ponds, old tires, buckets, or even puddles from leaky sprinklers.
- Report mosquito biting activity to SBCVCP at (909) 388-4600 or (800) 4-ABATE.

Now that WNV has been established within the bird population in the Valley, the Vector Control Program is focusing more on identifying and eliminating mosquito-breeding sites than on the collection of birds for testing. It is no longer necessary for citizens to report dead birds found in their neighborhoods to SBCVCP. However, citizens may still report dead birds to California Department of Health Services at (877) WNV-BIRD.

If you live in Chino, Chino Hills, Ontario or Rancho Cucamonga, contact West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District at (909) 627-0931. For more information about WNV visit the California Department of Health Services website at www.westnile.ca.gov.

Additional information about prevention of WNV infection and surveillance data is available from the San Bernardino County website at www.sbcounty.gov/dehs/VECTORCONTROL. For questions about WNV illness or for physicians to report a case, call the Epidemiology Program at (909) 383-3050.

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Boundary

NORTH

MARK H. UFFER
Interim County Administrative
Officer

Board of Supervisors

BILL POSTMUS.....	First District	DENNIS HANSBERGER	Third District
PAUL BIANE	Second District	PATTI AGUIAR.....	Fourth District
CLIFFORD YOUNG.....	Fifth District		